



Press Clipping Article

Title: Fletcher sends request for aide to help farmers

Date: 04/18/2007

Source: [Henderson Gleaner](#)

Writer: Special to The Gleaner

Lead:

Gov. Ernie Fletcher has sent a request to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns requesting that USDA disaster assistance be made available to the farmers across the state due to the crop losses resulting from extremely cold temperatures that occurred this month.

Article:

FRANKFORT -- Gov. Ernie Fletcher has sent a request to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns requesting that USDA disaster assistance be made available to the farmers across the state due to the crop losses resulting from extremely cold temperatures that occurred this month.

"Kentucky experienced lower than normal temperatures which destroyed many of the Commonwealth's crops," Fletcher's letter states.

"From April 5-10, 2007, the average low temperature reported for the Bluegrass Area was 25 degrees. In early reports, it appears crops with a loss greater than thirty percent include: strawberries, alfalfa, wheat, peaches, apples, pears, grapes, blueberries and barley."

"This damage was increased by the unseasonably warm temperatures in late March," he noted. "The devastation was widespread throughout the state from Ashland to the Mississippi River.

"The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture specialists estimate that winter wheat yields could be reduced at least 50 percent. Wheat accounted for \$66 million in farmgate receipts to Kentucky growers in 2005. Early estimates report close to a 100 percent loss on orchards and first cuttings of alfalfa."

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Generated Date: 5/16/2007 4:32:05 PM